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Letter dated 18 October 2018 from the Chair of the Central African Republic configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission addressed to the President of the Security Council

It is my pleasure to share with you, in my capacity as Chair of the Central African Republic configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission, the observations of the Commission, in its advisory capacity to the Security Council, pertaining to the upcoming renewal of the mandate of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic. The observations are the outcome of a consultative process undertaken within the Commission.

I remain at the disposal of the Security Council to provide further information and clarifications as may be required. The Commission remains ready to accompany the Central African Republic and to inform the Council in relation to peacebuilding-related developments, as appropriate.

I kindly request that the present letter and its annex be circulated to the members of the Security Council and issued as a document of the Council.

(*Signed*) Omar **Hilale**
Chair
Central African Republic configuration of the
Peacebuilding Commission

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Annex to the letter dated 18 October 2018 from the Chair of the Central African Republic configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission addressed to the President of the Security Council

Observations of the Peacebuilding Commission in the light of the mandate renewal of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic

In its resolution 2387 (2017), the Security Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) and referred to key elements of the political and peacebuilding process: the importance of national ownership and taking all segments of society, including women and youth, into account; the need for continued international support for the National Recovery and Peacebuilding Plan and for the authorities of the Central African Republic to accelerate the implementation of the Plan; the need to coordinate all peace efforts and the importance of the African Initiative for Peace and Reconciliation; the need to implement the national security policy and the national strategy on security sector reform; the importance of strengthening justice institutions and combating impunity; and the role of the Peacebuilding Commission in support of the long-term peacebuilding needs of the Central African Republic.

These references are still relevant. In addition, the following points could be considered to ensure adequate focus on peacebuilding in the Central African Republic:

- *Fostering national and local ownership*. MINUSCA should continue its wide-ranging efforts to strengthen national and local ownership of the peace and reconciliation processes, building on the example set by the Bangui Forum on National Reconciliation. The United Nations system and other partners should support the Government in developing a long-term strategy to build the capacity of government institutions, including the civil service.

- *Need to establish sustained strategic and operational partnerships*. Stress the need for MINUSCA to maintain close strategic and operational partnerships with all relevant international and regional actors, as well as international financial institutions. Building on the existing efforts of the World Bank and the African Development Bank, encourage the Government and all partners to strengthen their support for development opportunities.

- *Supporting the African Initiative for Peace and Reconciliation*. Support the strengthening of the Initiative as the overarching framework for dialogue between armed groups and the Government. Call upon MINUSCA to play a greater role in the peace process in support of the Initiative. Call for leveraging the capacities of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa and the United Nations Office to the African Union.

- *Supporting the timely preparation and organization of elections*. Emphasize that MINUSCA has an important role to play in ensuring the organization of the 2020/21 elections by providing good offices and technical and logistical support to national stakeholders and by coordinating international support and contributions.

- *Nurturing the sense of unity among key stakeholders*. Stress the need for close alignment among international and regional partners on the need for political solutions and nationally owned inclusive efforts. Strengthen the role of the International Support Group on the Central African Republic as a framework for

bringing together all key international and regional actors in order to support the peace process. The Commission, as an intergovernmental advisory body, will also continue to support coherence among international actors around peacebuilding priorities in the Central African Republic and to promote an integrated and strategic approach to peacebuilding.

- *National Recovery and Peacebuilding Plan*. Previous meetings of and engagement by the Commission concerning the Plan have had mixed results in terms of its operationalization, with low levels of disbursement and weak implementation capacity and absorption rates. MINUSCA, the United Nations system and other partners should provide technical support and capacity-building to the Plan secretariat and its Mutual Engagement Framework as well as line ministries, for the implementation of the Plan.

- *United Nations Peacebuilding and Development Assistance Framework for 2018–2021*. Reiterate the need to better integrate the relevant units of MINUSCA into the implementation of the Framework and call for better synergies and complementarities between the Mission and the broader United Nations system to plan early for and facilitate a smooth transition when the time is right.

- *Security sector reform and the rule of law*. Stress that processes for security sector reform, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and community violence reduction must be closely anchored in the political process. There will also be a need for close linkages between the peace process and justice. Non-judicial mechanisms for advancing justice should be embedded within the political process, while accountability should be ensured. Call upon international partners to support the coordinating and convening role of MINUSCA. Emphasize the important role of MINUSCA in supporting transitional justice processes and mechanisms in the Central African Republic (the Special Criminal Court and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission).

- *Strategic communications*. Call for greater international support for the Government's strategic communications capacity to promote the peace process and peaceful coexistence, including efforts to combat hate speech in the media.